WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for integrating multimedia descriptions, comprising:

receiving multimedia content;

separating the multimedia content into multimedia categories;

generating multimedia descriptions from each multimedia category;

integrating the multimedia descriptions from each category using a
multimedia integration description scheme; and

storing the integrated multimedia description into a database.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the multimedia categories include at least one
of image, audio, video, synthetic, and text.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the multimedia descriptions include
descriptors, the descriptors defining a portion of the multimedia content.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the descriptors include descriptor values, the
descriptor values of descriptors from at least one multimedia description being combined
with the descriptor values of at least one other multimedia description using the
multimedia integration description scheme.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the multimedia integration description
scheme is compatible with MPEG-7.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the multimedia integration description
scheme includes at least one of image, audio, video, synthetic, and text description
schemes.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the description schemes and the multimedia
integration description schemes use a compatible description definition language.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a request for the integrated multimedia description from a search
engine server;

retrieving the integrated multimedia description from the database; and

providing the integrated multimedia description to the search engine server
in response to the request.

1   9. The method of claim 1, wherein within the multimedia integration description

2   scheme a multimedia stream is represented as a set of relevant multimedia objects that

3   can be further organized by using object hierarchies.

1   10. The method of claim 9, wherein relationships among multiple multimedia

2   objects are expressed using at least one of a tree structure and an entity relation graph.

1   11. The method of claim 1, wherein the integrated multimedia description is

2   represented in a document type definition in eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

1   12. The method of claim 1, wherein a client/server system uses the multimedia

2   integration scheme to perform a search in response to a user's query.

1   13. A system that integrates multimedia descriptions, comprising:

2   a plurality of description generators that receive multimedia content,

3   separate the multimedia content into multimedia categories, and generating multimedia

4   descriptions from each multimedia category; and

5   a multimedia integration description generator that integrates the

6   multimedia descriptions generated by the plurality of description generators from each

7   category, using a multimedia integration description scheme, and stores the integrated

8   multimedia description into a database.

1   14. The system of claim 13, wherein the multimedia categories include at least

2   one of image, audio, video, synthetic, and text.

1   15. The system of claim 13, wherein the multimedia descriptions include

2   descriptors, the descriptors defining a portion of the multimedia content.

1   16. The system of claim 15, further comprising:

2   an integration description unit that provides descriptor values from the

3   descriptors to the multimedia integration description generator, the descriptor values of

4   descriptors from at least one multimedia description being combined with the descriptor

5   values of at least one other multimedia description using the multimedia integration

6   description scheme.

1   17. The system of claim 13, wherein the multimedia integration description

2   scheme is compatible with MPEG-7.

1   18. The system of claim 13, wherein the multimedia integration description

2 scheme is generated by a multimedia description scheme unit and includes at least one of

3 image, audio, video, synthetic, and text description schemes.

1   19. The system of claim 18, wherein the description schemes and the multimedia

2 integration description schemes use a compatible description definition language.

1   20. The system of claim 13, wherein the multimedia integration description

2 generator receives a request for the integrated multimedia description from a search

3 engine server, retrieves the integrated multimedia description from the database, and

4 provide the integrated multimedia description to the search engine server in response to

5 the request.

1   21. The system of claim 13, wherein within the multimedia integration

2 description scheme a multimedia stream is represented as a set of relevant multimedia

3 objects that can be further organized by using object hierarchies.

1   22. The system of claim 21, wherein relationships among multiple multimedia

2 objects are expressed using at least one of a tree structure and an entity relation graph.

1   23. The system of claim 13, wherein the integrated multimedia description is

2 represented in a document type definition in eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

1   24. The system of claim 13, wherein a client/server system uses the multimedia

2 integration scheme to perform a search in response to a user's query.

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